

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 05108 070359Z

12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4480
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5108

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MY, LY
SUBJECT: VISIT OF LIBYAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DR. ALI AL TARIKI

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4912

1. LIBYAN DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DR. ALI AL TARIKI VISITED KUALA LUMPUR AUG 27-28 ON RETURN FROM VISIT TO MANILA. HE CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN, FOREIGN MINISTER TENGKU RITHAUDDEEN AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN WHILE GOM ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI. THERE HAS BEEN LIBYAN EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR FOR SOME TIME.

2. DCM CALLED ON NIK MOHAMED BIN NIK HASSAN, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR WEST ASIA AND AFRICA ON SEPTEMBER 3 FOR REVIEW OF AL TARIKI VISIT AND DISCUSSION MALAYSIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS. NIK MOHAMED SAID VISIT RESULTED FROM INVITATION ISSUED BY PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN AT COLOMBO MEETING WHEN HE LEARNED AL TARIKI ON HIS WAY TO
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PAGE 02 KUALA 05108 070359Z

MANILA ON BEHALF OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE TO URGE GOP TO

RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH MUSLIM REBELS. DURING VISIT AL TARIKI HAD REPORTED TO PRIME MINISTER ON HIS CONVERSATIONS IN MANILA, AND INVITED PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT LIBYA, BUT NO OTHER MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE WERE DISCUSSED. GOM HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO OPEN EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI AND USED OCCASION TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT. INITIALLY THERE WOULD BE ONLY CHARGE, BUT EVENTUALLY AMBASSADOR WOULD BE SENT.

3. WHEN DCM MENTIONED LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, NIK MOHAMED SAID MALAYSIAN-LIBYAN BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE "EXCELLENT"; GOM WATCHING LIBYAN EMBASSY "LIKE HAWK" TO MAKE SURE MALAYSIA NOT VICTIMIZED BY LIBYANS; AND GOM HAD "MADE CLEAR" TO LIBYANS ITS ATTITUDE ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. WHEN DCM RAISED EYEBROWS AT LATTER REMARKS, NIK MOHAMED QUICKLY CLARIFIED THAT GOM HAD MADE ITS ATTITUDE CLEAR ONLY IN GENERAL WAY; IT HAD NOT RAISED SPECIFIC TERRORIST INCIDENTS (E.G. JRA ATTACK ON AMERICAN EMBASSY) WITH LIBYANS.

4. NIK MOHAMED, WHO RETURNED A YEAR AGO FROM CAIRO, ALSO SHOWED A LIVELY INTEREST IN THE RECENT EGYPTIAN CAPTURE OF HIJACKERS AT LUXOX. HIS INITIAL REACTION HAD BEEN THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD COOKED UP WHOLE THING FOR EXCUSE TO INITIATE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST LIBYA. HE WAS NOW LESS SURE OF THIS INTERPRETATION, BUT FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT ONE MORE LIBYAN PROVOCATION WOULD RESULT IN EGYPTIAN INVASION.
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